

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 00162 241042Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 /084 W
-----116637 241046Z /15

R 240911Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7179
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0162

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SF
SUBJ: JOHANNESBURG NEWSPAPER CLAIMS INFORMATION ON SMIT MURDERS

1. SUNDAY TIMES (JANUARY 22) CARRIED BANNER HEADLINE ALLEGING THAT MURDERS OF DR. SMIT AND WIFE (NATIONALIST PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE FOR SPRINGS) WERE EITHER DUE TO SMIT'S KNOWLEDGE OF INVESTIGATIONS INTO FRAUDULENT PRACTICES OF SOME COMPANIES ILLEGALLY RECEIVING REBATES FROM SAG BY SUBMISSION FALSIFIED EXPORT DATA, OR TO SMIT'S OWN PARTICIPATION OR COLLABORATION IN SUCH PRACTICES.

2. COMMENT: WHILE SPECULATION CONCERNING THE SMIT MURDERS HAS SURFACED REPEATEDLY IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, INCLUDING FREQUENT SENSATIONAL AND UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS, THERE SEEMS TO BE AN INCREASING BODY OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT THE SMIT MURDERS WERE NOT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. AS THE SUNDAY TIMES, HOWEVER, DOES NOT HAVE A PARTICULARLY GOOD RECORD IN TERMS OF RELIABILITY, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO
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PAGE 02 JOHANN 00162 241042Z

THE SMIT MURDERS, IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO CONSIDER SUNDAY TIMES STORY VERY SPECULATIVE.
JOHNSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MURDER
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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